# **National Emergency Communications Plan**

Office of Emergency Communications February 2009

### **Overview**

- The NECP is a strategic plan that was delivered to Congress in July 2008. It can be found at <a href="https://www.safecomprogram.gov">www.safecomprogram.gov</a>.
- The NECP sets national goals and objectives to improve interoperability, operability, and continuity of communications for Federal, State, local, and tribal emergency responders
- OEC developed the NECP in cooperation with:
  - Federal departments and agencies
  - State, local, and tribal governments
  - Emergency response providers
  - Private sector



### **NECP National Vision and Goals**

- Vision Emergency responders can communicate as needed, on demand, as authorized; at all levels of government; and across all disciplines
- **Goal 1** By 2010, 90 percent of all high risk urban areas designated within the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) are able to demonstrate response-level emergency communications within one hour for routine events involving multiple jurisdictions and agencies
- Goal 2 By 2011, 75 percent of non-UASI jurisdictions are able to demonstrate response-level emergency communications within one hour for routine events involving multiple jurisdictions and agencies
- Goal 3 By 2013, 75 percent of all jurisdictions are able to demonstrate response-level emergency communications within three hours, in the event of a significant incident as outlined in national planning scenarios

### **NECP Objectives**

- 1. Formal Governance Structures and Clear Leadership Roles
- Coordinated Federal Activities
- 3. Common Planning and Operational Protocols
- 4. Standards and Emerging Communication Technologies
- 5. Emergency Responder Skills and Capabilities
- 6. System Life-Cycle Planning
- 7. Disaster Communication Capabilities

### **NECP Objective, Initiatives, and Milestones**

#### **Objective 1: Formal Governance Structures and Clear Leadership Roles**

Formal decision-making structures and clearly defined leadership roles coordinate emergency communications capabilities.

#### **Supporting Initiatives**

**Initiative 1** – Facilitate the development of effective governance groups and designated emergency communications leadership roles.

**Initiative 2** – Develop standardized emergency communications performance objectives and link to DHS' overall system for assessing preparedness capabilities nationwide.

**Initiative 3** – Integrate strategic and tactical emergency communications planning efforts across all levels of government.

**Initiative 4** – Develop coordinated grant policies that promote Federal participation and coordination in communications planning processes, governance bodies, joint training and exercises, and infrastructure sharing.

#### Initiative 1 - Recommended National Milestones

\*Within 12 months, DHS will establish a central repository of model formal agreements (i.e., MOA, MOU, and Mission Assignments) and information that will enhance interstate and intrastate coordination.

\*Within 12 months, all States and territories should establish full-time statewide interoperability coordinators or equivalent positions.

\*Within 12 months, DHS will conduct a National Emergency Communications workshop to provide an opportunity for RECCWG participants, statewide emergency communications coordinators, and other interested parties to collaborate with one another and with Federal representatives from the ECPC and FPIC.

## **Moving Emergency Communications Forward**

INPUTS	ASSESS & PLAN	IMPLEMENTATION	RESULTS
Tactical Interoperable Communications Plans (TICP)  Statewide Communication Interoperability Plans (SCIP)  National Communications Capabilities Report (NCCR)  Public Safety Architecture Framework (PSAF)  Public Safety Statement of Requirements (SOR)	Assessment of State, a Current State of the Local Formula Course of the Local For	Resources Federal	TICP, SCIP, & NECP Alignment  Federal, State, Local, & Tribal Coordination  Improved Emergency Communications Nationwide
For the first time in history, 56 States and Territories have Statewide Plans To Urban Area Tactical Plans Comprehensive assessment data from Federal, State, Local, and Tribal agencies Input from practitioners at all levels of government	OEC was mandated to develop the NECPas part of Title XVIII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002  NECP is due to Congress in July 2008  The plan will set a national vision for emergency communications  The plan will identify gaps and align Federal, State, Local, and Tribal resources	OEC will target its resources to address emergency communications gaps at all levels of government  Technical assistance, tools, grants, and grant guidance will be aligned to address gaps at the State, Local, and Tribal level  OEC will coordinate Federal resources and build partnerships necessary to address Federal gaps	Implementation of the NECP will lead to:  • TICP, SCIP, and NECP Alignment  • Ability to measure progress of the nation's emergency communications  • Greater Federal, State, Local, and Tribal coordination  • Improved Emergency Communications Nationwide



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- NECP Milestones for States relate to the following:
  - 1. Governance
  - 2. Planning
  - 3. Training & Exercise
  - 4. National Interoperability Channels



- Governance SCIP Initiative #1 (Expand & Implement Interoperable Communications Governance Model & Plan)
  - Establish a full-time interoperability coordinator (NECP Objective 1; Initiative 1.1, Milestone 2) Completed
  - Establish via legislation or executive order, a governing body according to the SCIP Handbook (NECP Objective 1; Initiative 1.1, Milestone 5) - Completed
  - SCIP reflects the elimination of coded substitutions
     (NECP Objective 3; Initiative 3.1, Milestone 7) In Process
     (Annual SCIP update)



# Planning

- Tactical planning among Federal, State, local, and tribal governments occurs at the regional level (NECP Objective 1; Initiative 1.3, Milestone 2) - Ongoing
- Define alternate / backup capabilities in emergency communications plans – applies to UASIs (NECP Objective 7; Initiative 7.2, Milestone 5) – In Process

#### Related SCIP Initiatives:

- (#1) Expand & Implement Interoperable Communications Governance Model Objectives:
  - Develop a comprehensive Emergency Communications Plan to addressing regional emergencies, catastrophic loss & mass evacuation
  - Develop TICPs & utilization of CASM
- (#7) Implement the State Strategic Technology Reserve (STR)
- (#10) Establish Policies, Standards, Procedures (PSP) Framework and Implement PSPs, including SOPs



- Training & Exercise SCIP Initiative # 11-Develop & Implement Communications Training & Exercise Plan, including Objective - Implement ComL/ComT Training Program:
  - Complete disaster communications training and exercises – (NECP Objective 7; Initiative 7.2, Milestone 4) -Ongoing
  - Implement the Communications and Information
     Management section of the NIMS applies to UASIs
     (NECP Objective 3; Initiative 3.2, Milestone 1) In Process



- National Interoperability Channels (NECP Objective 3; Initiative 3.1, Milestones 6 & 7) In Process; Ongoing
  - Program an appropriate set of frequency-band-specific nationwide interoperability channels into all existing emergency responder radios
  - Preprogram an appropriate set of frequency-band-specific nationwide interoperability channels into emergency response radios manufactured or purchased with Federal funding as a standard requirement
  - Incorporate use of nationwide interoperability channels in SOPs, training, & exercises

### Related SCIP Initiatives:

- (#4) Complete Deployment of AIRS
- (#10) Establish Policies, Standards, Procedures (PSP) Framework and Implement PSPs, including SOPs
- (#11) Develop & Implement Training & Exercise Plan